

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-23, and 25-26 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. Claims 1, 8, 20, 21, and 26 have been amended as shown on pp. 2-5 of the Reply. Claim 5 has been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant's representative notes with appreciation the indication by the Examiner that dependent claims 11-17 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant's representative reserves the right to recast these claims in independent form at a later date if necessary.

Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

I. Rejection of Claims 1, 3-10, 18-23, and 26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3-10, 18-23, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rowe *et al.* (US 6,073,148). Withdrawal of this rejection is requested for at least the following reasons. The cited reference does not disclose all features recited in the subject claims. “For a prior art reference to anticipate, 35 U.S.C. §102 requires that ‘*each and every element* as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference.’” *In re Robertson*, 169 F.3d 743, 745, 49 U.S.P.Q.2d 1949, 1950 (Fed. Cir. 1999) (*quoting Verdegaal Bros., Inc. v. Union Oil Co.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 U.S.P.Q.2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987)) (emphasis added).

Independent claim 1 (and its corresponding dependent claims) relates to a system for configuring display layouts. To reduce the required amount of complexity and computing resources for layout generation, the system recited by independent claim 1 allows the generation of layout information for respective display items (e.g., windows or other graphical objects) to be selectively deferred in a just-in-time manner to a time at which the respective items become visible in the display. Further, the system recited by independent claim 1 can determine whether and to what extent layout creation for an item should be deferred based on the complexity of the item, which can be expressed by an associated flag. In addition, independent claim 1 recites that a rough layout can initially be generated for various items to be displayed. Subsequently, detailed layouts can then be generated for items as needed. When an item is to be displayed, a determination can be made as to whether a final layout is needed for the item prior to its display.

Accordingly, to the above ends, independent claim 1 recites: *A system for rendering a display, comprising: a drawing component that determines visible items to a display; a logic component that selectively defers layout of the visible items to the display in a just-in-time manner, the logic component determines complexity of the visible items in order to defer the layout, and the logic component associates a flag with the visible items, the flag being true for complex items and the flag being false for non-complex items; and a rough layout component that determines an approximation for the visible items and identifies at least one object for which a final layout is to be completed before display thereof.* The cited reference does not disclose such novel features.

Rowe *et al.* relates to techniques for providing and displaying a document on a computing device. (See abstract; col. 3, ll. 48-51). Rowe *et al.* discloses that a document can be accessed in an interleaved manner, such that portions of a document that generally have more relevance or usefulness to a user can be obtained before other, less relevant or useful portions. For example, Rowe *et al.* discloses that text can be obtained prior to images or other objects to facilitate a quick determination by a user regarding usefulness of a document. (See col. 13, ll. 13-30).

However, Applicants' representative submits that the interleaving disclosed by Rowe *et al.* is not equivalent to, nor does it suggest, *selectively deferring layout of visible items in a just-in-time manner or determining complexity of visible items in order to defer their layout*, as recited by independent claim 1. More specifically, rather than selectively deferring layout of items, the interleaving process disclosed by Rowe *et al.* follows a predetermined order (col. 13, ll. 31-36). Rowe *et al.* additionally discloses that the size of a page can be compared to a predetermined threshold such that interleaving is only performed for pages having a size above the threshold. (See col. 20, ll. 55-67). However, this comparison does not form a basis for *selectively deferring layout of visible items*; rather, as a result of the comparison, generation of a layout for a document follows either a first predetermined order (*i.e.*, interleaved in the order specified by col. 13, ll. 31-36) or a second predetermined order (*i.e.*, non-interleaved). Further, this comparison is performed prior to any layout generation, as opposed to the *just-in-time* layout generation recited by independent claim 1.

Rowe *et al.* further discloses techniques for handling of "shared objects," which are defined as objects that are referenced multiple times of a document. (See, *e.g.*, col. 7, ll. 44-51;

col. 14, ll. 15-29). Thus, determining whether an object is a “shared” object as disclosed by Rowe *et al.* involves only a determination of the number of times the object is referenced in the document and not a *determination of complexity of visible items* as recited by independent claim 1. Further, Rowe *et al.* discloses only that a shared or non-shared determination for an object can be used to determine whether the object should be interleaved or non-interleaved in a document (*see* col. 18, ll. 35-46). As noted above, this determination does not form a basis for *selectively deferring layout of visible items in a just-in-time manner* as recited by independent claim 1.

In addition, Rowe *et al.* does not disclose the generation of an initial rough layout for an object and determining in a just-in-time manner whether a final layout is to be generated for the item prior to display as recited by independent claim 1. More particularly, Rowe *et al.* discloses that document text for which an intended font has not yet been downloaded to a viewer’s machine can instead be displayed in a substitute font until the intended font is downloaded. (*See* abstract; col. 3, ll. 51-57). However, even if the substitute font is regarded as a “rough layout” for the document text, it is clear that this rough layout is displayed prior to a final layout for the text, *e.g.*, the intended font therefor, being completed. Indeed, using substitute fonts in this manner is one of the stated purposes of Rowe *et al.*, as doing so eliminates undesirable delays in displaying document text. (*See, e.g.*, col. 3, ll. 65-67). Accordingly, Rowe *et al.* does not disclose all claimed features of independent claim 1.

Independent claim 20 recites similar limitations to those described above with respect to independent claim 1. In addition, independent claim 20 recites that an indication that a final layout is to be generated for an object prior to its display is provided *by configuring one or more properties of the object*. As noted above with respect to independent claim 1, Rowe *et al.* does not disclose providing an indication that a final layout for an object is to be provided prior to display of the object. Further, Rowe *et al.* does not disclose providing such an indication by setting or otherwise configuring a property of such an object. Thus, Rowe *et al.* does not disclose all limitations of independent claim 20.

In addition, independent claims 21 and 26 recite similar limitations to those described above with respect to independent claim 1. Thus, for the reasons stated above regarding such limitations, Rowe *et al.* does not disclose all limitations of independent claims 21 and 26. In view of the foregoing, Applicants’ representative respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [MSFTP538US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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